

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/064 W
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R 210806Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2180
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1587

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILL, PINT, PO
SUBJ: CDS ELECTORAL PLANS

SUMMARY: CDS LEADERS HAVE APPEALED TO REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL FOR PERMISSION TO CONTINUE IN ELECTIONS WITHOUT PDC PARTNERS. THEY HAVE RECEIVED A FAVORABLE REPLY. CDS CAMPAIGN PROSPECTS LOOK BLEAK. END SUMMARY.

1. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DECIDED LATE MARCH 19 TO PERMIT CDS TO RUN ALONE IN ELECTIONS; IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER WITH FULL OR INCOMPLETE LISTS.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MARCH 19, CDS LEADER REVEALED THAT CDS POLITICAL COMMITTEE APPEALED TO REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
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FOR PERMISSION EITHER TO RUN WITH INCOMPLETE LISTS (THAT IS,

WITHOUT THE 80 PDC CANDIDATES WHO WERE ON THE COALITION LISTS), OR ELSE BE ALLOWED "A REASONABLE TIME" IN WHICH TO COME UP WITH A NEW LIST OF 80 CANDIDATES TO SUBSTITUTE FOR PDC COLLEAGUES.

3. CDS PLANS TO CONTINUE IN THE ELECTIONS IF PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE TO DO SO, AND WILL NOT VOLUNTARILY DESIST. CDS HAD HOPED FOR A FAVORABLE REPLY FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. (ADM. ROSA COUTINHO WHO CHAIRED AFM INSTITUTIONALIZATION NEGOTIATIONS TOLD AMBASSADOR HE RESPECTED CDS FOR THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS REGARDING AFM INSTITUTIONALIZATION.) HAD THE AFM BEEN COMPLETELY HOSTILE TO THEM. CDS REASONED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED ALONG WITH THE PDC.

4. CDS TOLD EMBOFF THAT IF IT DID NOT RECEIVE A SATISFACTORY REPLY, PARTY PLANNED TO DISBAND AND ITS LEADERS WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY GO INTO VOLUNTARY EXILE, IF ONLY FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY. ITS PRINCIPAL LEADERS ARE KEEPING OUT OF PUBLIC SIGHT AT PRESENT, BUT ALL ARE IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF VICE PRESIDENT ADELINO AMARA DA COSTA, WHO RETURNS MARCH 20 FROM LONDON.

5. WE ARE TOLD BY CDS THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (PDC) LEADER MAJ. SANCHES OSORIO IS NOT IN MADRID, BUT RATHER IN HIDING NEAR LISBON. HE REPORTEDLY FAILED TO MAKE IT INTO EXILE. OUR SOURCE STATES THAT IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION SANCHES OSORIO WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE ABORTIVE COUP. CDS BELIEVES OSORIO PANICKED WHEN COUP FAILED AND, ALTHOUGH NOT A PARTICIPANT, FLED OUT OF FEAR OF HIS PERSONAL SAFETY.

6. ALL MAJOR CDS HEADQUARTERS HAVE BEEN RANSACKED AND THE PARTY ORGANIZATION IS LARGELY PARALYZED AS A RESULT. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE PARTY IS BANKRUPT AND HAS RECEIVED NO FUNDS FROM EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN COUNTERPARTS. WITH THE BANKS NATIONALIZED, FUTURE LARGE SCALE DOMESTIC FUNDING LOOKS IMPROBABLE, MANY OF THE INDIVIDUAL PARTY LEADERS ARE HEAVILY IN DEBT THEMSELVES ON BEHALF OF THE PARTY, AND EXPECT THE BANKS TO DEMAND PAYMENT, WHICH THEY CANNOT MEET.

7. COMMENT: GIVEN THESE FINANCIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS, AND WIDESPREAD ACTIVE LEFTIST HOSTILITY, THE CDS UNLIKELY TO CAMPAIGN ACTIVELY OR EFFECTIVELY. THEY WILL PROBABLY BE CONTENT
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TO SURVIVE AS A PARTY, AND HOPE FOR A REBIRTH AFTER THE ELECTION.

8. HOWEVER, THE CDS STILL HAS A FEW PLUSES ON ITS SIDE. IF ALLOWED, IT MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE EQUAL TV TIME EACH PARTY IS ALLOTTED UNDER PRESENT ELECTORAL LAW DURING THE OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD. FURTHERMORE, MODERATES PRESUMABLY STILL CONSTITUTE A MAJORITY IN THE COUNTRY (ESPECIALLY IN THE

NORTH). EVEN IF CDS DOES NOT CAMPAIGN FURTHER, THESE MODERATES, IF NOT SCARED AWAY FROM THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY, MAY GIVE THE PARTY A GOOD VOTE. ROLE OF LOCAL VILLAGE PRIESTS IN RALLYING SUPPORT FOR THE CDS SHOULD NOT BE DISCOUNTED.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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